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RANKING DEMOCRAT:

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2308

April 1, 2003

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Dear Friends:

Please join me to discuss what we can do to address Minnesotan transportation needs.

Hometown Values Forum - Moving Minnesota Forward

April 14, 2003; 7:00-9:00 pm

Chalberg Theatre at the Central Lakes College

Brainerd, Minnesota

Legislation to reauthorize the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) will be one of the top priorities for Congress this year. With TEA-21's emphasis on congestion mitigation, alternative means of transportation, and air quality improvement targets, leading environmentalists have called TEA-21 the single most important piece of environmental legislation in the last decade. Congress must reauthorize the entire federal transportation program in 2003. Which policies should be retained? Which should be changed or abandoned? What percentage of federal spending should go to highways? To transit? To alternative transportation modes?

Congress must also reauthorize the federal aviation program, AIR-21, this year.

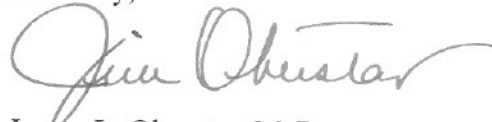
With these two bills, my goal is to produce a balanced transportation program that serves the mobility needs of all Minnesotans. That's why I need your input.

Your ideas on transportation are vitally important as we work to improve highway, transit, and air service; grow the economy; create family-wage jobs; improve safety; and better the quality of life in each of our communities. Please feel free to pass this invitation along to whomever else you think would be interested in attending this forum.

If you have any questions or wish to testify at the forum, please call my Brainerd District Office at (218) 828-4400 or send an email to ken.hasskamp@mail.house.gov.

I hope to see you in Brainerd on Monday, April 14.

Sincerely,



James L. Oberstar, M.C.